MARVEL
5
V · MANNA · ARCINIEGA
CARNAGE
30 YEARS

YEARS AGO, THE **VENOM SYMBIOTE** SPAWNED, AND ITS OFFSPRING BONDED TO SERIAL KILLER **CLETUS KASADY**. IMBUED WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, SPEED, ENDURANCE AND POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, KASADY AND HIS EXTRATERRESTRIAL "OTHER" SHARE A UNIQUE BOND AND HAVE LONG TERRORIZED THE MARVEL UNIVERSE AS...

CARNAGE

CARNAGE IS LOOSE.

REJECTED BY ITS FORMER HOST, **CLETUS KASADY**, THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE IS ON ITS OWN.

IT HAS FOUND A DISCIPLE IN SERIAL KILLER **KENNETH NEELY**. DETECTIVE **JONATHAN SHAYDE** IS HOT ON THEIR TRAIL. BUT AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH CARNAGE, SHAYDE KEEPS HEARING KASADY'S VOICE IN HIS HEAD.

AFTER ATTACKING AND STEALING THE POWERS OF HYDRO-MAN AND THE SPOT, CARNAGE IS WREAKING HAVOC ON THE DARK ELF HOMEWORLD OF SVARTALFHEIM. BUT WHO IS CARNAGE HUNTING NEXT, AND HOW DOES IT CONNECT TO THE ANCIENT RITUALISITIC HUNT THE ELVES THEMSELVES ARE TAKING ON?

RAM V
WRITER

FRANCESCO MANNA
ARTIST

ERICK ARCINIEGA
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

KENDRICK "KUNKKA" LIM
COVER ARTIST

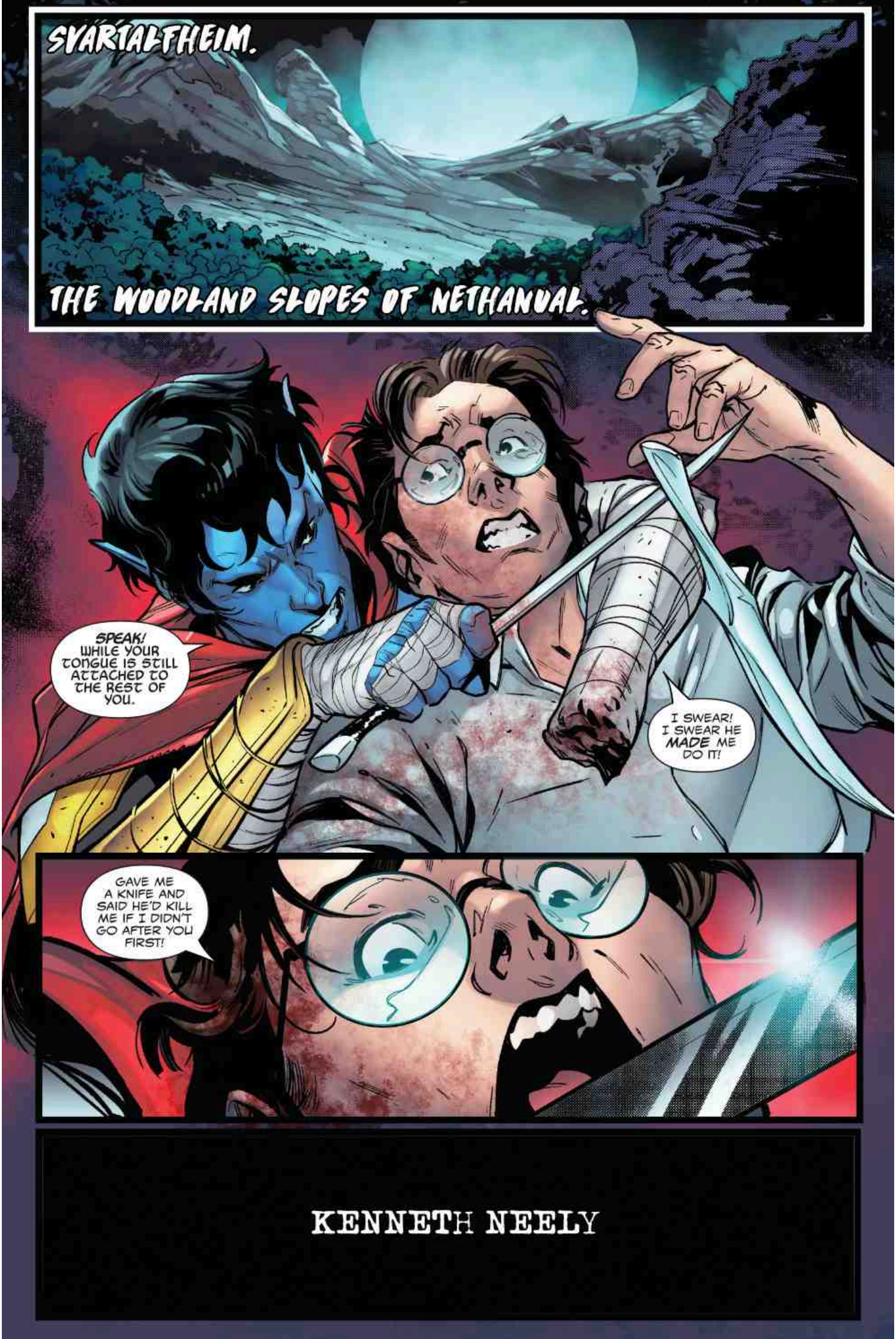
MARIA WOLF
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

ANTHONY GAMBINO
DESIGNER

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

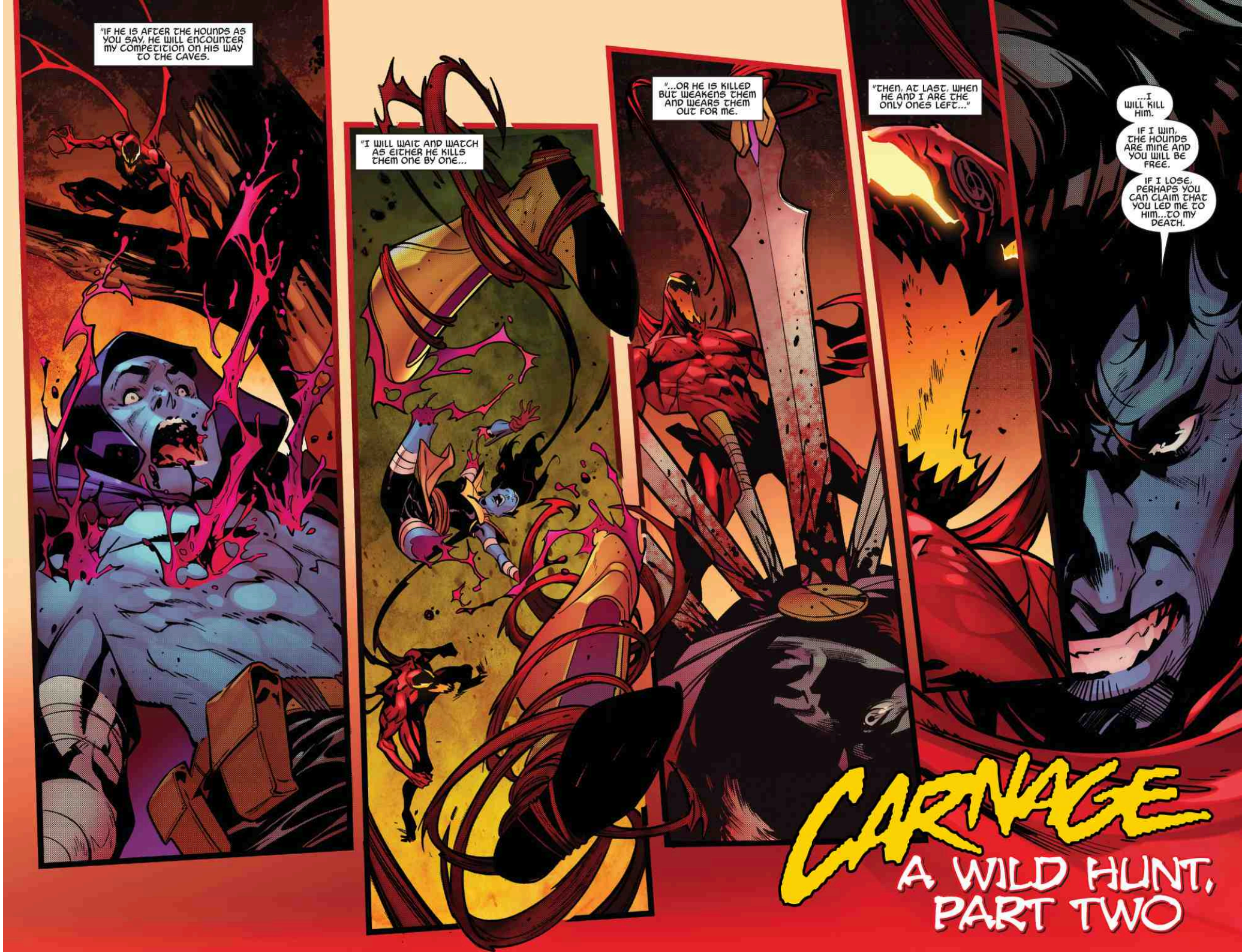
DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF


SVARTALFHEIM.
THE WOODLAND SLOPES OF NETHANUAL.
SPEAK! WHILE YOUR TONGUE IS STILL ATTACHED TO THE REST OF YOU.
I SWEAR! I SWEAR HE MADE ME DO IT!
GAVE ME A KNIFE AND SAID HE'D KILL ME IF I DIDN'T GO AFTER YOU FIRST!
KENNETH NEELY

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST RUN?
I'M NOT LIKE YOU! IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M NOT EVEN FROM THIS WORLD. WHERE WOULD I RUN TO?
WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE BUT TO FOLLOW HIS EVERY WHIM?
THE LAST TIME I STOOD UP TO HIM, HE TOOK MY HAND...
WHY?
WHY DOES HE DO THESE THINGS? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
"WHY DOES THE RIVER FLOW? IT IS HIS NATURE, AS IT IS HIS NAME.
"CARNAGE."

...WHO KNOWS WHAT MOTIVATIONS DRIVE SUCH A THING?
BUT I KNOW THIS...HE'S HERE FOR THE HOUNDS. HE TOLD ME AS MUCH.
IF HE IS GOING FOR THE HOUNDS, HE WILL MAKE FOR THE CAVES. AS WILL WE.
I PUT A CHARM ON THAT KNIFE. AS LONG AS YOU HOLD IT, WE CAN UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
YOU CAN COME ALONG WITH ME IF YOU WANT.
I WILL KEEP YOU FROM HARM, AND PERHAPS YOU MIGHT YET HAVE SOME USEFUL INSIGHT INTO OUR QUARRY.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? ABOUT CARNAGE, THAT IS.

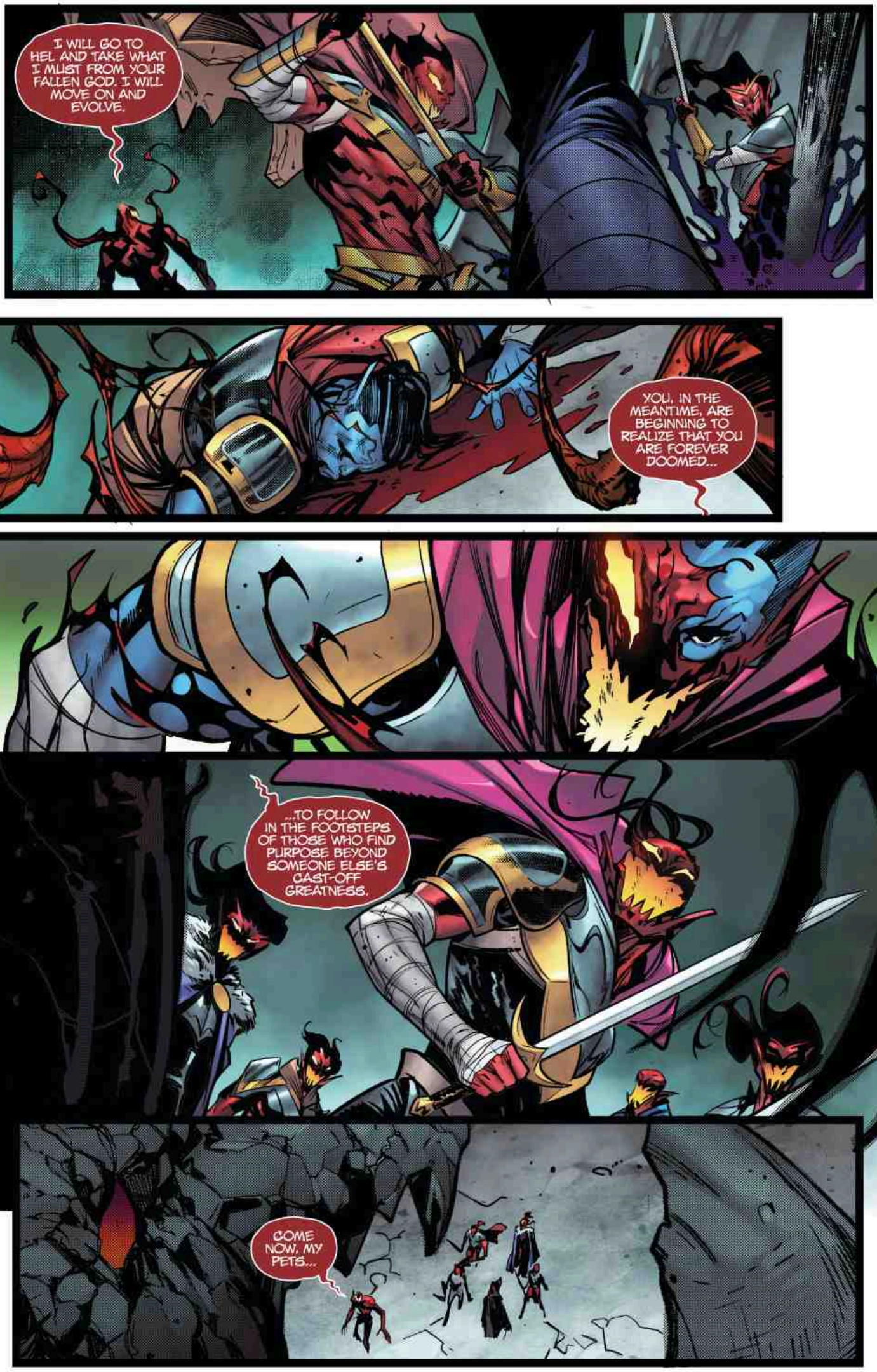

"IF HE IS AFTER THE HOUNDS AS YOU SAY, HE WILL ENCOUNTER MY COMPETITION ON HIS WAY TO THE CAVES.
"I WILL WAIT AND WATCH AS EITHER HE KILLS THEM ONE BY ONE...
"...OR HE IS KILLED BUT WEAKENS THEM AND WEARS THEM OUT FOR ME.
"THEN, AT LAST, WHEN HE AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES LEFT..."
...I WILL KILL HIM.
IF I WIN, THE HOUNDS ARE MINE AND YOU WILL BE FREE.
IF I LOSE, PERHAPS YOU CAN CLAIM THAT YOU LED ME TO HIM...TO MY DEATH.
CARNAGE
A WILD HUNT, PART TWO

NYAZ'S NEST, THE NORTHERN SLOPES.
FWIII
IIIIZZZZT
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MANNER OF DEVIL OR DEMON YOU ARE, BUT IT IS ONLY I, VARUEN OF ETOR DERA, WHO WILL LEASH THE HOUNDS OF NYAZ.

...
WHY?
WHY MUST YOU TAME THESE THINGS? WHY THIS WHOLE SONG AND DANCE?
BECAUSE IT IS THE WAY. THE GREATEST HONOR AMONG THE BLACK BILE...TO FOLLOW THE DEEDS OF MALEKITH THE--
TSK. OH, MALEKITH THE GREAT, MALEKITH THE ACCURSED, MALEKITH THE... BLAH BLAH BLAH.

YOU ARE ALL SO UNFATHOMABLY BORING. I HATE YOU.
FWOOOOSH
YOU ARE A DEMON... WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF TRADITION AND HONOR?
SSS-KHYAAAAAAAKHH!
OH, I KNOW A LOT MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
I TOO WAS TETHERED TO ANOTHER...TO A HOST.
FWII
MUCH IN THE SAME WAY AS YOU ARE TETHERED TO THIS NOTION OF TRADITION, FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOSE GREATER THAN YOU.
AAAGH!

DOES IT NOT TIRE YOU? THIS JUVENILE NEED TO MEASURE UP TO SOME NOTION OF GREATNESS?
K-KILERETH?
WHEN THE TRUTH LIES ROTTING ON A STOCKADE IN HEL?
XETIEN? Y'DREIS?
FOREVER EXISTING ONLY TO PAY HOMAGE. ENSLAVED BY THE ECHO OF A VOICE LONG LOST.
THIS IS WHY YOU WILL LOSE AND I WILL WIN HERE.
BECAUSE I STOPPED NEEDING PERMISSION TO BE ALL THAT I AM MEANT TO BE.


I WILL GO TO HEL AND TAKE WHAT I MUST FROM YOUR FALLEN GOD. I WILL MOVE ON AND EVOLVE.
YOU, IN THE MEANTIME, ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT YOU ARE FOREVER DOOMED...
...TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOSE WHO FIND PURPOSE BEYOND SOMEONE ELSE'S CAST-OFF GREATNESS.
COME NOW, MY PETS...

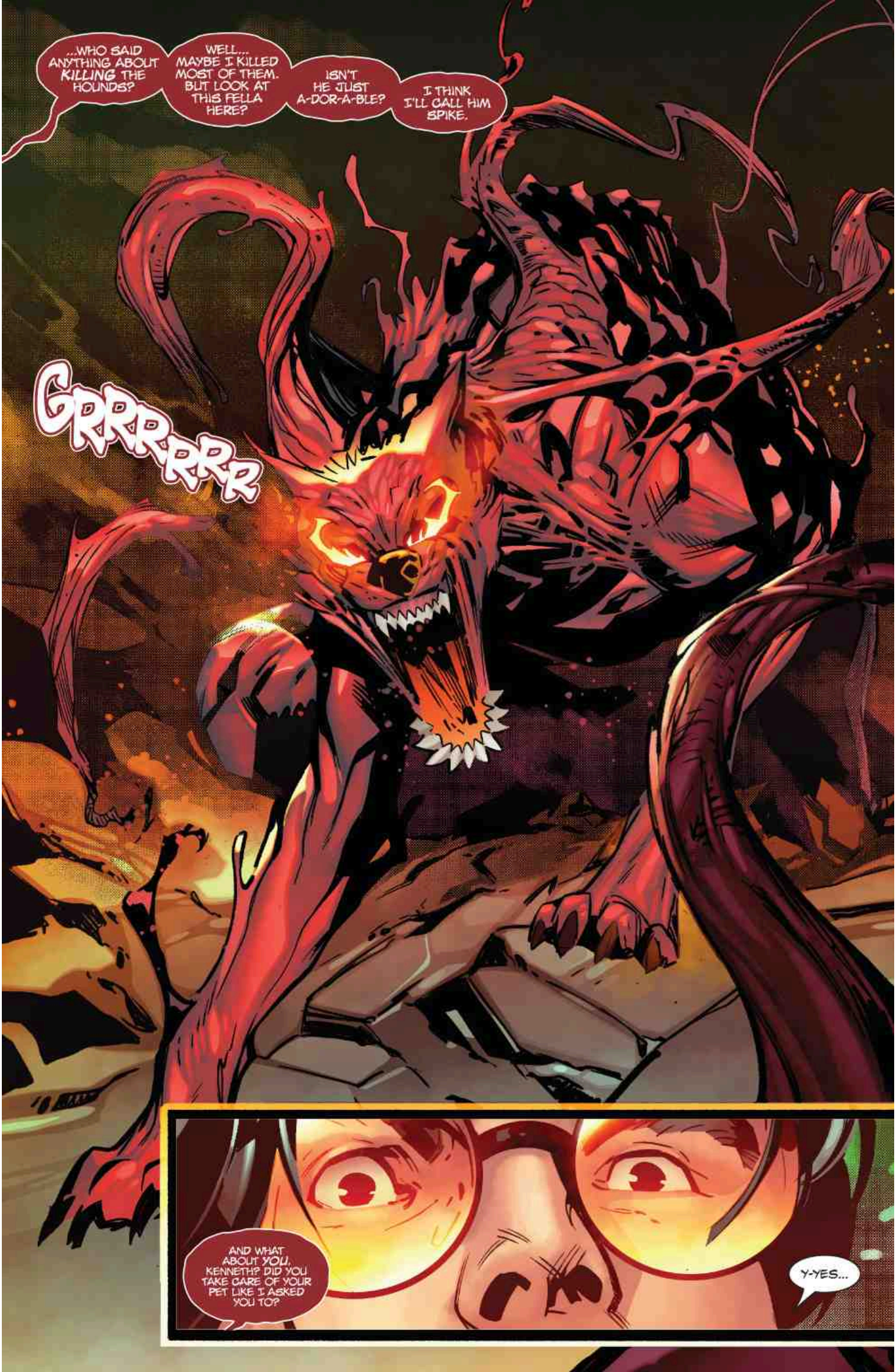
"...THERE'S MORE YET TO TAME."

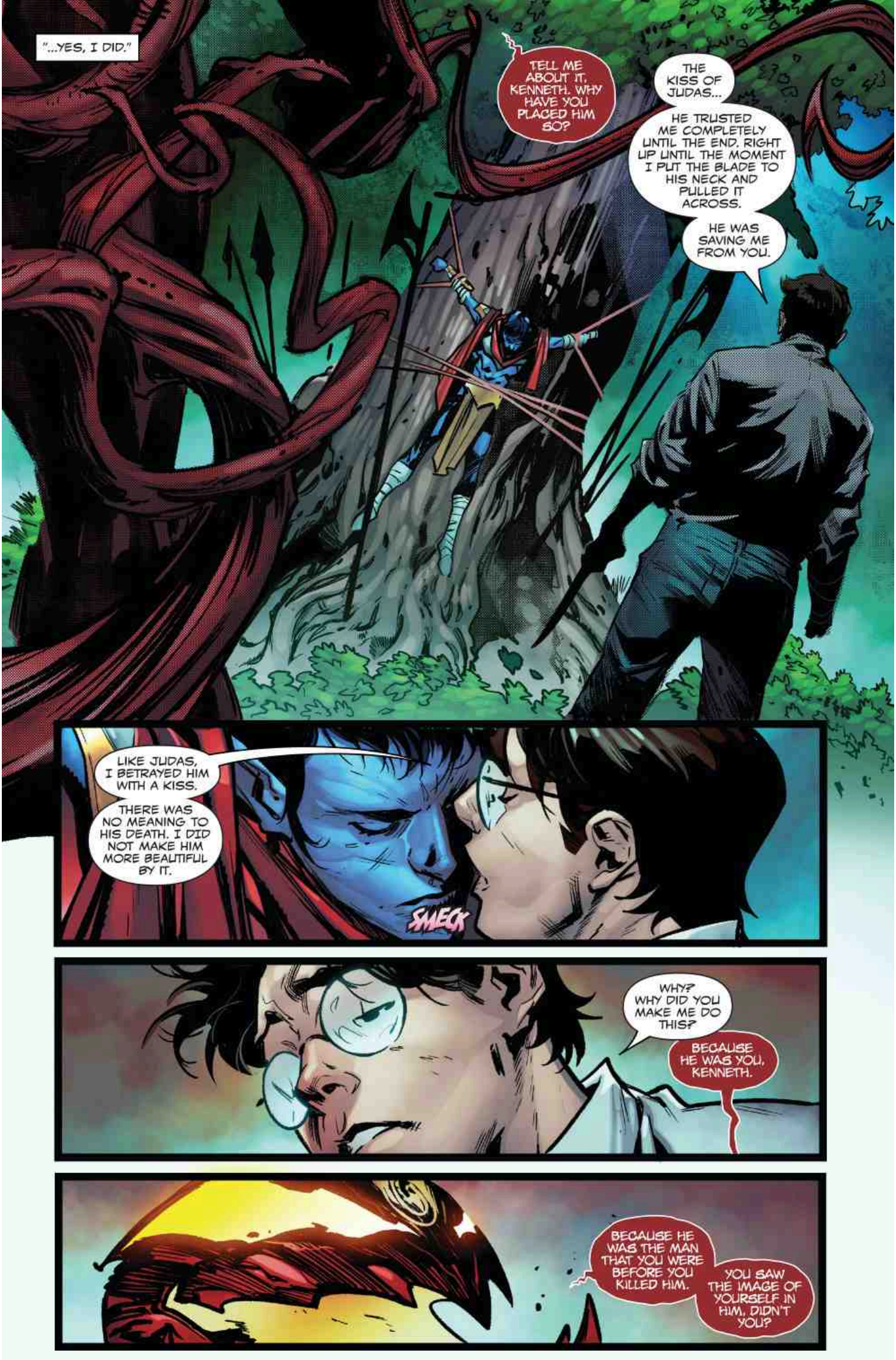
I IMAGINE HE WILL FIND THE HOUNDS TO BE MUCH MORE OF A CHALLENGE THAN THE OTHERS.
WE'LL GIVE HIM A WHILE AND THEN GO IN AFTER HIM.
EITHER HE WILL BE DEAD AND I WILL MAKE MY PLAY TO LEASH A HOUND. OR HE AND I WILL MEET AND I WILL KILL HIM.
JUST LIKE THAT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? IT'S DEATH AND MURDER.
ALL GRAND SCHEMES BOIL DOWN TO KILL OR BE KILLED.
WHY?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHY AM I DOING THIS WITH A SEVERED HAND AND A BROKEN BACK, YOU MEAN? HEH...

I LOVED THEM, YOU SEE? THE WARRIORS, THE HUNTERS, WITCH-CROWS AND WIZARDS. CHAMPIONS OF THE BLACK BILE.
"EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, IT IS ALL I WANTED TO BE.
"BUT I WAS BORN WITH A BONE-CURSE. MY HAND WAS MANGLED AND THE BONES IN MY BACK TWISTED INTO KNOTS.
"STILL, I ENDEAVORED, LEARNED WHAT I COULD. I MADE UP FOR THE LACK OF LIMBS WITH A SURFEIT OF EFFORT.
"BUT EVENTUALLY, I REALIZED I WOULD NEVER BE ANYTHING MORE TO THEM.
"THEY WOULD NEVER LOOK AT ME AND SEE WHO I WAS. ALL THEY'D SEE WAS A MISSING HAND AND WARPED SPINE."

SO I STOPPED HOPING FOR THEM TO LIFT ME UP AMONG THEM.
RATHER THAN BE CHANGED BY THEIR DISDAIN FOR ME, I'D BE DRIVEN BY MY OWN DISDAIN FOR THE MAN I USED TO BE.
IS IT HEALTHY? PROBABLY NOT.
BUT I'D RATHER BE A THREE-LEGGED WOLF THAN A DOG ON ALL FOURS.
COME. IT'S TIME TO GO MEET WHATEVER END LIES AHEAD OF US.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN.
YOU WILL. YOU MUST. CAN DOESN'T COME INTO IT. GRIP YOUR KNIFE AND DRIVE THE BLADE.
ONE DAY, LIKE ME, YOU WILL BE FREE OF YOUR DEMONS.

"WHY NOT THIS DAY?"
KENNETH... MY OLD FRIEND.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST KICKED A THREE-LEGGED PUP.
I'M JUST TIRED.
WHAT WAS EVEN THE POINT OF ANY OF THIS?
THERE WAS NO EUPHORIC MADNESS--NO UNDERLYING DARK BEAUTY.
ALL YOUR KILLS SO FAR HAD PURPOSE... WHAT DID WE GAIN FROM KILLING THE ELVES?
WHAT DID WE GAIN FROM KILLING THE HOUNDS?
NOW, NOW...


...WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT KILLING THE HOUNDS?
WELL... MAYBE I KILLED MOST OF THEM. BUT LOOK AT THIS FELLA HERE?
ISN'T HE JUST A-DOR-A-BLE?
I THINK I'LL CALL HIM SPIKE.
GRRRRRR
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, KENNETH? DID YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR PET LIKE I ASKED YOU TO?
Y-YES...


"...YES, I DID."
TELL ME ABOUT IT, KENNETH. WHY HAVE YOU PLACED HIM SO?
THE KISS OF JUDAS...
HE TRUSTED ME COMPLETELY UNTIL THE END. RIGHT UP UNTIL THE MOMENT I PUT THE BLADE TO HIS NECK AND PULLED IT ACROSS.
HE WAS SAVING ME FROM YOU.
LIKE JUDAS, I BETRAYED HIM WITH A KISS.
THERE WAS NO MEANING TO HIS DEATH. I DID NOT MAKE HIM MORE BEAUTIFUL BY IT.
SMECK
WHY? WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO THIS?
BECAUSE HE WAS YOU, KENNETH.
BECAUSE HE WAS THE MAN THAT YOU WERE BEFORE YOU KILLED HIM.
YOU SAW THE IMAGE OF YOURSELF IN HIM, DIDN'T YOU?

I USED TO THINK OF CLETUS THAT WAY. HE WAS EVERYTHING THAT MADE ME WHO I WAS.
AND WE MUST BOTH OVERCOME THE THINGS WE LOVE BEFORE WE CAN EVOLVE PAST THEM.
IN THIS...YOU AND I ARE TOGETHER.
WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
WHERE SPIKE MAY DEEM TO LEAD US, MY PUP.
WHERE ONE MUST GO AFTER THEY KILL THE THING THAT THEY LOVE.
TO HEL...

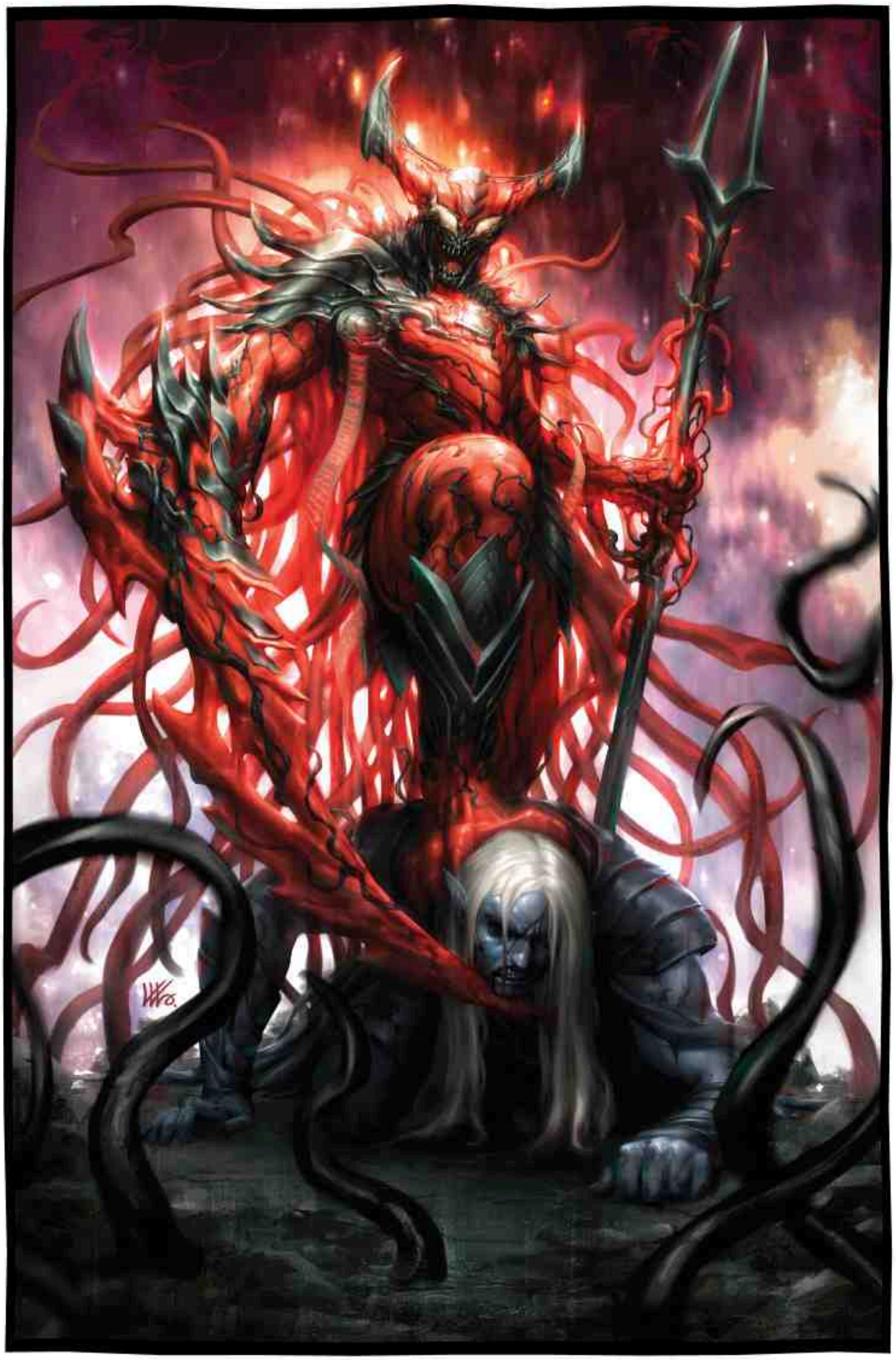
"...WE ARE GOING TO HEL."
NIFFLEHEIM.
JON SHAYDE
EEEE

WHEN PATTERNMAKER SAID--UNH--THAT SHE WAS GOING TO GET US AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO WHERE HER SPIDER-SENSE WAS TELLING HER WE SHOULD BE...
...UFF--I DID NOT THINK SPIDER-SENSE HAD A...SENSE OF HUMOR.
NO, NO...THIS IS A GOOD THING, JON.
THE SHORES OF NASTROND.
ONLY YOU COULD LOOK AT WHAT LIES AHEAD AND SAY THAT, CLETUS.
TRUE, BUT IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE, SHE'S PUT US HERE, IN HEL, BEFORE CARNAGE AND NEELY HAVE MADE IT.
THEN WE CAN GET OUT AHEAD OF ALL OF THIS. PUT AN END TO THE WHOLE PLAN, RIGHT HERE.
WH-WHAT... WHAT DO WE DO?
SIMPLE...WE KILL MALEKITH.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: ISSUE #6

ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER

CARNAGE RULES, AND THE CRIMSON-CLAD CREATURE CRAVES YOUR LETTERS! SEND YOUR NOTES TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM.** BE SURE TO MARK THEM **"OKAY TO PRINT"!** –TOM



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